Oblon Docket: 246722US2RDDIV

New DIV Application

Inv: Koji USUDA, et al. Preliminary Amendment

Remarks/Arguments:

Favorable consideration of this application, in light of the present amendment and

following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claim 8-21 are pending; Claims 1-7 and 22 are canceled; and no claims have been

newly added herewith. Claims 8 and 15 are amended to correct typographical errors. The

specification has been amended to include priority information. It is respectfully submitted

that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendment, it is

respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for examination. An early and

favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,

MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Katherine D. Pauley

Customer Number 22850

Tel No: 703-413-3000 Fax No: 703-413-2220

EHK:KDP:dmr

I:\ATTY\KDP\24's\246722US\246722 PREL AM.DOC

Eckhard H. Kuesters Registration No. 28,870

Katherine D. Pauley

Registration No. 50,607